PART TWO. THE INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL. PAGES 9 TO 16.

INDIANAPOLIS, WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 9, 1892—SIXTEEN PAGES.

HOW A GREAT NEWSPAPER IS MADE

The Indianapolis Journal Is Closely Identified with the Growth of the City and the State.

Brief Story of Its Establishment and Advancement Under Various Ownerships to Its Present Place in Western Journalism.

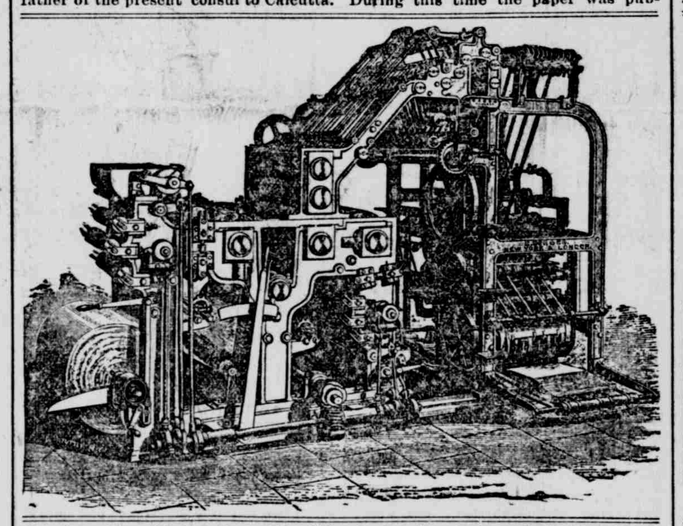
Now the Largest and Most Complete Daily Newspaper Concern that Indiana Has Ever Known.

Two Perfecting Presses of Hoe's Most Approved Pattern, Printing 15,000 Per Hour, Required to Handle Its Circulation.

How The News of the World Is Gathered By Telegraph and Focused In the Journal's Columns.

Method of Conducting the Work In the Counting-Room, Editorial, Composition, Stereotyping and Art Departments of the Office.

On the 7th day of March, 1823, appeared in Indianapolis—a town which had been laid out in the summer of 1821, and where the first sale of lots occurred on the 10th of October following—the first copy of the Western Censor and Emigrant's Guide, a little paper with the motto: "He is a freeman whom the truth makes free." It was edited by Harvey Gregg and Douglass Maguire. In 1824 John Douglass, who was then doing the State printing at Corydon, the old capital, removed to the new capital, Indianapolis, on the 16th of November, and on the 11th of the following January the Censor appeared under the auspices of Douglass & Maguire as the Indiana Journal. There is yet living in this community a gentleman who worked upon the Journal in that early time, Gen. Thomas A. Morris, who set type upon it from 1824 until some time in 1827. Mr. Maguire was the first editor of the paper under the new name, and after him, from 1826 to 1829, came Samuel Merrill, father of the present consul to Calcutta. During this time the paper was published weekly, with a semi-weekly edition during the sessions of the Legislature. Its circulation did not exceed one thousand, and was generally less. It was worked upon a Hansbury press brought from Lexington, Ky., and had a stone bed and a wooden "platen." It was a double-pull press, that is, half was run in and pressed first and then the other page was run in. There were no "rollers," the ink-balls used from the time of Guttenberg being still the only appliance known in the West for inking forms, though rollers had been used for some time in England and in the Eastern States. Rollers were first used upon the Journal about 1830 by an Irishman who had worked in London. But as he had unluckily selected a stick of green sugar-tree for the cylinder upon which the composition was molded, the roller warped and inked the types irregularly, so that the innovation was cast aside and a return made to the old-fashioned ink-balls. In 1833 Thomas Tigar, an Englishman who had been familiar with rollers in England, worked the Journal with rollers, and with such success that the ink-balls were forever discarded.



When the paper was first published it was in a frame building on the west side of the alley, north side of Washington street, between Pennsylvania and Meridian. The office was removed in 1826 to a building on the site of the Indiana National Bank. In 1835 S. V. B. Noel bought Mr. Maguire's interest. In 1840 Mr. Noel sold out to Mr. Douglass, who in 1842 resold to Mr. Noel, who kept it until 1846, when he sold to John D. Defrees, father of Morris Defrees. During the Douglass & Noel proprietorship in 1838, the establishment, which had been at the northwest corner of Washington and Meridian streets, was removed to a frame building on the site of the Original Eagle Clothing House, and here it remained until 1846. Mr. Maguire was succeeded as editor by Mr. Kent, and he in turn by T. J. Barnett, a man of Jewish descent, a lawyer by profession, who came here from New Albany. He removed to Washington city, and as late as 1862 was a correspondent of this paper.

The Chapmans bought the Sentinel in 1841, and they allowed it to lose no interest for lack of personalities. As soon as Barnett crowed in the Journal the Chapman rooster returned the defiance in the Democratic organ. This warfare was dirty and ill-tempered. The affair came to a head one day in the postoffice, on the site of where Sloan's drugstore now stands. Page Chapman met Barnett and both proceeded to blows. Barnett drew a pistol, Chapman dodged, and the bystanders stopped the row—the nearest approach to a fight ever made between the leading editors of Indianapolis papers.

An incident growing out of this row more than balanced any advantage that Barnett may have got out of the postoffice affair with his pistol. One Saturday evening he wanted to take home a pound of butter. Mr. Noel not being about, and he having no money, but knowing it would be all right if Mr. Noel were at home, wrote an order on David George, a grocer, for a pound of butter and signed Mr. Noel's name to it—a very innocent affair under the circumstances. George A. Chapman, one of the Sentinel proprietors, happened to enter a few minutes after Barnett had gone, and the clerk, puzzled by the oddity of the writing, showed the order to Chapman, who recognized the hand as Barnett's. Of course, it was published with a flourish. Barnett had been in favor as a public speaker, but this trifling and perfectly innocent forgery spoiled his speaking and all his personalities forever. If he said a good thing at a meeting all that was necessary was to shout "Butter," and he melted immediately. In 1860, when he visited this city, after an absence of fourteen years, when called upon privately to know if he would make a speech, he declined on the ground that some Democrat would remember that unfortunate butter incident and gag him with it.

Mr. Defrees remained sole proprietor and editor of the Journal from 1846 until the fall of 1854. It was in the Harrison campaign of 1840 that the Journal made a conspicuous display of force and influence, and assumed a position among the papers of the West that it has ever since maintained. It has already been remarked that the Journal was published semi-weekly during the sessions of the Legislature. This was from 1838 to 1842. From that time it was changed to a daily for the sessions, and so remained until 1850. In 1840 there came to this city from St. Joseph county a beardless lad not yet of age, by the name of Schuyler Colfax. He was given a place on the Journal; reported a little, attended to the exchanges a little and read proof when necessary. This was the first introduction of the future Vice-president of the United States to public life. But he never worked at the case or press on the Journal, if he ever did anywhere.

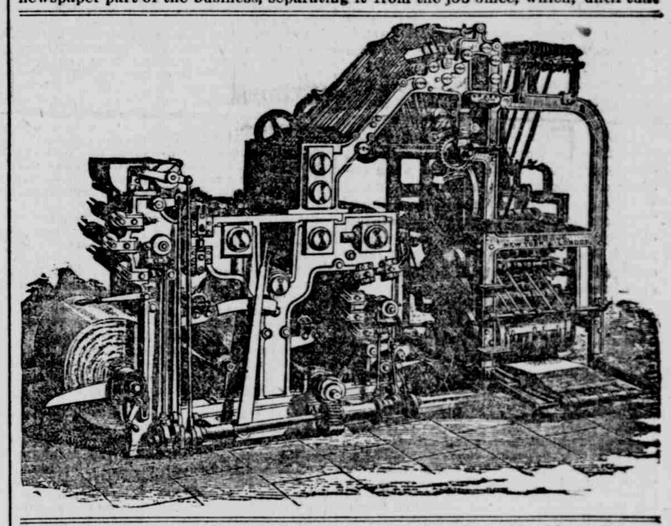
When Mr. Defrees bought the paper he removed the office to the third story of a building on West Washington street, near Meridian, north side. Here it remained a year or so, when it was removed to a three-story brick on South Pennsylvania street, in the rear portion of the ground now covered by the Ingalls Block. Mr. Defrees edited the paper, assisted at different times by Clarendon Davisson, Charles L. Murray, Lewis Bollman and James H. McNeely, now of the Evansville Journal. Upon his removal to Pennsylvania street Mr. Defrees introduced steam into his press-rooms for the first time in the history of the State. The first daily of the new steam dispensation appeared the day the State constitutional convention met, Oct. 7, 1850, and continued from that day until recently, when it was superseded by electricity.

The telegraphic news was copied from the Cincinnati papers for a time. Until Mr. Defrees sold the Journal, in the fall of 1854, its reading matter was strictly limited to five or six columns, making a weekly bill for composition of $50 to $60. About the time the Crimean war broke out the daily papers began getting original telegraphic dispatches. These were taken by John F. Wallick, now division superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company, on the recording strips of paper in "skeleton" form; that is, with all the little words left out, and as he read this anatomical sketch the editors copied it and rounded it up into readable form. The local was somewhat slower than at the present day. In that time everything had to give way to editorial, news being a matter of minor importance. Local occurrences for the morning paper were noted only until 7 P. M., and if anything happened after that hour it passed over until the next day.

In the fall of 1854 the Journal establishment was bought of Mr. Defrees by Ovid Bulter, sr., Joseph M. Tilford, James M. Mathes and Rawson Vaile. These formed the first Journal company, a stock concern of twenty shares of $1,000 each. Barton D. Jones, now of Washington city, bought a portion of the stock and became local editor. Berry R. Sulgrove, who took charge of the Journal as the assistant of Mr. Defrees, remained in control until the summer of 1864, but had contributed more or less frequently from 1851. As contributor, editor and editorial writer Mr. Sulgrove's connection with the Journal extended over a period of thirty years.

The first report in regular city style ever attempted in Indianapolis was of an old settlers' meeting held on the grounds of Calvin Fletcher's residence, in June, 1855. The little addresses of Calvin Fletcher, James Blake, Judge F. M. Finch and others were taken in longhand, with the proper parenthetical mixture of laughter and cheers, and the whole affair minutely described. The effect was prodigious, and the counting-room did not quit selling extra Journals for a week. This was really the beginning of newspaper reporting in Indianapolis as it is known to-day. In 1860 the company built the four-story building on the southeast corner of the Circle, now occupied by Carlon & Hollenbeck. Austin H. Brown, in the early part of the war, succeeded Mr. Jones as local, and in 1863 Elijah W. Halford, now President Harrison's private secretary, took charge of the local columns. In the summer of 1864 Col. W. R. Holloway bought out the company and Judge Horatio C. Newcomb became the chief editor, a position he retained until the winter of 1868.

In February, 1865, James G. Douglass and Alexander H. Conner bought out Colonel Holloway, and a year later Samuel M. Douglass joined the firm, each of them owning one-third. In 1867 Colonel Holloway bought back one-half of Mr. Conner's interest and became managing editor, as he had previously been. In the latter part of the year 1867 the office was removed to the new building which had been erected for it, Nos. 30 and 32 East Market street. After the retirement of Judge Newcomb the editorial control was in Colonel Holloway's hands until he was made postmaster, when it fell into those of Mr. Conner. This work, however, was mainly done by Mr. Halford till the sale of the establishment in June, 1870, to Lewis W. Hasselman and William P. Fishback, the latter assuming editorial control. On the 16th of August, 1871, the proprietors started an evening paper called the Evening Journal, under the charge of George C. Harding. In June, 1872, they sold out to a company of which Jonathan M. Ridenour was president, the other members being Nicholas R. Ruckle, Lewis Hasselman, M. M. Landis, E. L. Hastings, Frank M. Hamilton, John Simpson, J. H. McNeely and Isaac Hodgson. Charles M. Walker was placed in political charge of the paper. Mr. Halford assumed editorial charge of the paper on the 15th of November, 1873, after an absence in Chicago on the Inter Ocean of nearly two years. In 1874 Colonel Ruckle was made president, and a number of changes took place among the smaller stockholders, John D. Nicholas and M. H. Halpin coming into the company. Mr. Nicholas was made managing editor, remaining in that position until 1875, when E. B. Martindale bought the newspaper part of the business, separating it from the job office, which, until that time, had been a part of the establishment.



Some time later Mr. Martindale removed the office to his building on Market street, where, in 1880, it was sold to John C. New & Son. In 1886 the Journal absorbed the Indianapolis Times, conducted by Colonel Holloway, and finally the organization known as the Indianapolis Journal Newspaper Company removed to its present quarters.

The Journal editorial force as at present organized is believed to be as efficient as the scope of the paper demands, and able to meet every emergency. The rooms occupied by this force are on the third floor, with the exception of that of H. S. New, managing proprietor, who retains possession of the office in the rear of the counting-room. The editorial force above-stairs consists of Thomas J. Steele, managing editor; Charles M. Walker and Z. A. Smith, editorial writers, and Miss Anna Nicholas, editorial writer and literary editor. Mr. Smith is also editor of the weekly issue, the Indiana State Journal. The position of managing editor on a live morning paper is by no means a sinecure. He is the autocrat who decides absolutely upon what shall or shall not go into the paper. Not the least of his troubles arise with callow youths who appear in the sanctum with articles that they firmly believe would set the world aflame or with more elderly persons who have great ideas which they would like to have the paper exploit. It is not infrequently the case that under some very specious cloak the managing editor will see the handle of a good-sized ax to grind, and he rises to the occasion with a firm but polite refusal. Wm. H. Kaylor, telegraph editor, is assisted by Frank C. Payne. These gentlemen have no light labor to arrange the matter that is rushed to them from the wires, to classify it and give to it proper and attractive headlines. The Journal takes great pride in the arrangement of its telegraphic matter so that its readers have no trouble in finding the different departments of this class of news. The regular city force consists of Russel M. Seeds, city editor; George K. Trask, railroad reporter, and Charles Dennis, Arthur C. White, Charles R. Lane, W. B. Rodgers and Miss Anna McKenzie, general reporters and Allan Botsford, artist. The editoral-rooms are equipped with an excellent reference library and a large iron vault contains bound volumes of the Journal running back for half a century.

That the Journal pays full attention to all the happenings at the State Capital, and that this attention is appreciated is shown in the frequent approval bestowed by the State press. When an event of any importance takes place, this paper does not spare space or expense, but gives it all it is worth. The recent street-car tie-up, with the exciting occurrences of Saturday a week ago, is the latest illustration of what the Journal reporting force can do. The past six months have been unusually prolific in great events in Indianapolis, and the city force has met every emergency in a way to receive golden opinions from all sorts of people.

THE COUNTING-ROOM.

Where the Business End of the Paper Is Taken Care Of—Personnel of the Force.

The counting-room is not the least important of the several departments of a daily newspaper, and for many years, each Monday afternoon, it may be said to be of greater importance than any place about the building, for it is then each and every employe is handed his envelope containing his salary for the past week. A great many years ago pay-day was Saturday afternoon, which was bad for the employes, as, with Sunday to follow, purchases and payments were necessarily made by them in a hurry, which is not now the case, when they begin the week with a full purse. The counting-room force has at its head the business manager, George C. Hitt, the other members being Capt. Wm. J. Kercheval, bookkeeper; Charles J. Whitridge, subscription clerk; Albert G. Hardin, advertising clerk; Miss Lura Lowe, correspondence clerk; Arthur Hall, night clerk; John Koppen, superintendent of the mailing room. C. L. Divine, advertising manager, is also an important member of the force. Mr. Divine is specially fitted to the work he has in charge, his many years of service in various departments of newspaper work giving him a knowledge that is made of benefit to the advertising patron. Mr. Divine has been educated in the art preservative of arts from the ground up, having begun as the "devil" in a country office and gone through the various stages of apprenticeship to come out as a journeyman printer, and from that to superintendent of the composition department of a metropolitan newspaper. Mr. Divine's ideas on advertising are those of an expert, and it is largely to his artistic perception and invention that the advertising pages of the Journal owe their at-